

## CLAIMS

### I CLAIM:

1. A method of sterilizing a surface using a mobile, enclosed flamer comprising a hood, at least one burner, and skids for maintaining a height above said surface, said method comprising:
  - (a) transporting the flamer to location;
  - (b) setting the flamer on the skids; and
  - (c) setting a flame to the burner such that the flame is contained within the hood.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the flamer is moved about the surface while in sterilizing.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the flamer additionally comprises wheels and is drawn by a vehicle.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein a burner angle is adjustable during sterilization.
5. An apparatus for sterilizing a surface, said apparatus comprising:
  - (a) a hood for containing a flame;
  - (b) at least one burner situated under the hood; and
  - (c) a hitch for attaching said flamer to a tractor;
6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said hood comprises an external frame and a skin.
7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the hitch is a three-point hitch for attaching said flamer to a tractor.

8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the hitch is a quick coupler for attaching said flamer to a tractor.

9. The apparatus of claim 5, additionally comprising wheels for bearing a weight of the flamer, wherein the hitch is a tongue for attaching said flamer to a tractor.

10. The apparatus of claim 5 additionally comprising a fuel tank operably mounted on the hood, said fuel tank containing fuel for the burner.

11. The apparatus of claim 5 additionally comprising a fuel tank operably mounted on the tractor.

12. The apparatus of claim 5 additionally comprising a pivot for adjusting an angle of the at least one burner.

13. The apparatus of claim 5 additionally comprising skids supporting at least some of a weight of the flamer when in operation.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the skids are adjustable as to height.

15. The apparatus of claim 5 additionally comprising insulation over the skin on a side of the skin opposite the at least one burner.

16. The apparatus of claim 10 additionally comprising a heat shield disposed between the hood and the fuel tank.

17. A method of sterilizing poultry litter, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) holding poultry in confinement such that litter accumulates to form a surface;
- (b) transporting a flamer to the litter surface;

- (c) setting the flamer on skids on the surface;
- (d) setting a flame to the burner such that the flame is contained within a hood; and
- (e) heating the poultry litter sufficiently to kill microbes and bacteria.